**Output and demand of fertilizer**

523. SHRI NIRMAL CHATTERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the gap between the output and the demand of fertilizers during the last three years;

(b) the total amount of subsidy given to fertilizer industry during the above period; and

(c) the cost of fertilizers imported during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) The requisite details are given below:—

*Gap between demand (consumption) and production of fertilizers (in lakh tonnes)*

| Year | Nitrogenous Fertilizers (Nitrogen) | Phosphatic Fertilizers ($P_2O_5$) |
|---|---|---|
| 1982-83 | 8.00 | 4.57 |
| 1983-84 | 17.20 | 6.82 |
| 1984-85 (Estimated) | 17.27 | 6.01 |

There is no indigenous production of Potash (K) and its entire requirements are met through imports.

(b) The amount of subsidy incurred on indigenous fertilizers was as follows:—

*(Rs. in Crores)*

| Year | Amount of subsidy |
|---|---|
| 1982-83 | 550 |
| 1983-84 | 900 |
| 1984-85 | 1200 |

(c) Value of imports of fertilizers during the last three years is given below:—

*(Rs. in Crores)*

| Year | Value of imports |
|---|---|
| 1982-83 | 273-53 |
| 1983-84 | 365.00 |
| 1984-85 | 1435.00 (approx.) |

**Joint venture with PDIL**

524. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the multi-national company — Halder Topse has given proposals for joint venture with PDIL, a public sector organisation;

(b) if so, what will be the percentage of equity share in the joint venture; and

(c) whether Government are aware that the proposed joint venture is nothing else but an attempt to take over the PDIL's catalyst manufacturing activity?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

**Acute shortage of Medicine 'Dialantin**

†525. SHRI K. MOHANAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that there is an acute shortage

†Previously Unstarred Question 175 transferred from the 24th July, 1985.

of medicine 'Dialantin' an essential drug for the treatment of epilepsy;

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) what action has been taken by Government to make the medicine available?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): (a) Some reports of localised shortages of 'Dialantin' for mulations are received during the last few months.

(b) M/s. Parke Davis, the manufacturers of Dialantin formulations, have informed that such shortages have arisen due to some technical problems caused in the production of formulations.

(c) The manufacturers were advised immediately to rush stocks to the reported areas of shortages. It is understood that manufacturers are arranging to rush supplies to the affected areas and have also overcome the technical problems disturbing the production of the formulations. The availability position is, therefore, likely to improve shortly.

**Production of Soda Ash by Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation, Haldia Complex**

526. SHRI SUKOMAL SEN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state the reasons for the failure of the Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation, Haldia Complex to produce Soda Ash?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI VEERENDRA PATIL): While the Soda Ash plant at the Haldia Complex of Hindustan Fertilizers Corporation has been completed, it could not go into production, since the other plants of this complex with which this plant is integrated are not yet commissioned.

**Strike by RMS employees**

527. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS GUPTA:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the employees of Railway Mail Service (RMS) and Mail Motor Service went on a day's strike on the 6th June this year all over the country to press their demands;

(b) if so, what are the details of their demands and Government's reaction thereto;

(c) whether it is also a fact that some 80 employees belonging to Reserve Trained Pool were suspended in West Bengal for taking part in the above-said strike; if so, the details thereof; and

(d) whether the postal employees all over the State had been on a strike on this issue; if so, the details and the steps taken to settle the problem?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) A section of the RMS and MMS employees went on a strike on 6-6-1985.

(b) The following demands were put forth by the All India RMS and MMS Employees Union Cass III and the Bhartiya RMS Employees Union Class III—

(1) Restoration of all sorting sections/sorting mail offices/sets and